

CREATION

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Journal of the CREATION SCIENCE MOVEMENT

Genesis Expo news

Is the Genesis Expo open again yet?

The bad news is 'No'. The good news is that the volunteer team are sticklers for perfection. The team has perceived how acres of white paint put on the ceiling (including round the stronger sources of light over the mezzanine floor plus the fossil/ book shop) can enhance the whole Expo area: and they are right! One wall has had to be painted three times. It stayed damp until a pipe which looked okay was tracked down and sorted out. The Expo is a listed building and its age catches us out sometimes.

The original displays have to be updated, and their computers (now the worse for wear after a decade of continuous use)



replaced with modern digital devices. We hear that August 1st might see the front doors open again. We have been as impatient as you are to see it happen. Even then the working team

(from Portsmouth Family Church) could still be coming to work in the evening after their own day's work.

The mezzanine floor was indeed finished around Easter as planned, but we underestimated the accompanying necessary work. We have been 'blown away' by the determination and skills of the wonderful volunteer team (some university students with exams approaching) to transform the whole Expo. **JR**

Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist** *by Dr David Rosevear*

3 April p.12 With heels like these we were born to run

"A well-developed Achilles tendon, it turns out, is crucial for this distinctively human mode of locomotion ... over distances of tens of kilometres, well-trained athletes can outrun a horse."

Computer models show that the elasticity of the Achilles tendon is what gives us our ability to run.



Reconstruction of *Archaeopteryx*. In line with evolutionary orthodoxy, the modeller has given this reconstruction an appearance halfway between reptiles and birds. However, the most recent scientific studies place *Archaeopteryx* convincingly as a true bird. Image: CSM.

3 April p.13 Night skies suited dino-bird's eyes

“Like a modern owl, *Archaeopteryx* may have come alive at night. The shapes of eye sockets differ predictably in birds that feed during the day, night or twilight, according to a study that promises to spill the beans on the dino-bird's life-style.”

Archaeopteryx fossils show deep sockets and large diameter bony rings round their eyes, indicating that they were night feeders. Brain scans have already revealed that they are real birds and quite unlike dinosaur brains. The labyrinths of their inner ears also show that they had an avian aerobatic lifestyle.

3 April p.21 One minute with Francisco Ayala

The £1 million 2010 Templeton prize for promoting both science and religion has gone to Ayala, a geneticist and former Dominican priest. In this *NS* interview he says: **“Religion and science are not properly understood by some people, Christians particularly. Some want to**

interpret the Bible as if it were an elementary textbook. It is a book to teach us about religious truths.

“Creationism and intelligent design are not compatible with religion because they imply the designer is a bad designer, allowing cruelty and misery. Evolution explains these as a result of natural processes, in the

same way we explain earthquakes, tsunamis or volcanic eruptions. We don't have to attribute them to an action of God.”

Ayala's Bible evidently misses out Genesis 3 with its account of the Fall and curse.

Asked if he believed in God, Ayala responded **“I don't answer questions on my personal beliefs.”** He continued: **“There is no way of demonstrating the superiority of one religion. True religion is what one person happens to believe.”** He says that one can have a meaningful life without faith in God. However, the afterlife is another matter. Jesus of Nazareth claimed: **“I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by me.”** The Bible is very exclusive regarding God the Son: **“Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”**

As always, the Bible must be sacrificed to the theories of secular science. You see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

17 April p.14 New-found cousin is a brain teaser

Newly found extinct ape *Australopithecus sediba* from South Africa shows evidence of its brain imprint in sediment filling the skull. Claimed to be almost two million years old, fossils of a male child and adult female are said (three times within this short article) to be the most human-like of the australopithecines found so far. Strangely, they are thought to be hundreds of thousands of years younger than fossils of true humans. So perhaps not our direct ancestors! They are some 1.2 metres tall with ape-sized brains. These apes were designed for swinging through the trees, with opposable big toes to hold on to the branches.

Ape to human evolution is assumed, but each new find teases the brains of the anthropologists. If these two partial fossils are the closest yet to human, then there is no evidence for man's descent from the apes. A report in *Science* for 9 April says the arm-to-leg lengths are those of a chimp, as is the opposable thumb and brain size.

24 April p.5 New law claims fetuses feel pain

This week Nebraska became the first American state to restrict abortion on this basis. The new law says that at 20 weeks a fetus **"has the physical structures necessary to experience pain"**. Opponents argue that the fetus lacks the brain connections needed to feel pain until about 29 weeks. This is surprising since a fetus is considered viable as early as 24 weeks into a pregnancy. The law will probably be challenged in the US Supreme Court.

24 April p.5 Tree data released.

The freedom of information law has been used to insist that tree ring data going back

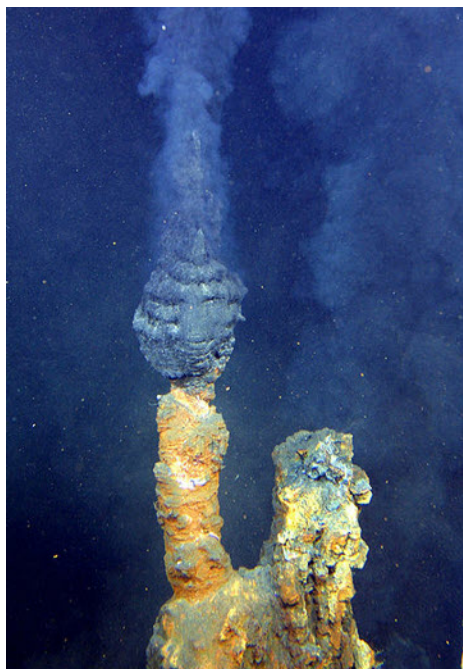


Growth rings in the trunk of an ancient elm. Interpretation of such rings in fossil plants depends upon a number of unverifiable assumptions about past climatic conditions, growth periods and the reliability of specimen comparisons. Image: CSM.

thousands of years be released by the University of East Anglia to climate change sceptics.

24 April p.6 Life was all but inevitable "Recent discoveries about the genetic code show life may have arisen remarkably easily."

Since the double stranded molecule that replicates genetic information at present, known as DNA, is too complex to have arisen by chance, some suggest that the related single stranded RNA may have formed by chance and performed DNA's function in the earliest life-forms. RNA does carry genetic information passed on by the DNA. In the absence of enzymes (catalysts which are coded for by DNA in today's cells) RNA could possibly use its limited catalytic properties as enzyme substitutes. In today's cells, three nucleotide units of an RNA chain carrying genetic information from DNA, assemble a particular amino acid. A protein is then formed by means of these triplets. The protein's viability depends on the sequence of nucleotides originally on the DNA. (The exclusively



A "black smoker" hydrothermal vent. Even in the unlikely scenario that such a reactive area did produce a range of amino acids suitable as potential building blocks of life, how long would any incipient assemblage last before it was destroyed by the very same reactive conditions? Image: NOAA, in the public domain.

left-handed amino acids would also have to be generated by chance chemical reactions in a world of chance.)

In the absence of DNA, fragments of three nucleotides each of RNA would require a catalyst, a protein, to enable them to combine and form a chain that in turn would provide the chain of amino acids that comprise a protein. **"The catalyst that allowed the first RNA chains to form is a missing link in the evolution of early life, says Lane. There is kind of an assumption that it was there somehow, but no one has ever found it."**

Even if the protein could be assembled using the natural affinity of RNA nucle-

otides for amino acids, the main stumbling block to the process is the precise order of nucleotides, that is, the genetic information. Any old order would not make a useful protein. Information is the product of intelligence, not chance.

The article concludes optimistically: **"In environments like hydrothermal vents it is likely, but as yet experimentally unproven, that a range of amino acids and nucleotides would be formed by the laws of chemistry ... Once that happened, the emergence of life was all but inevitable."**

1 May p.5 ET stay home

Professor Stephen Hawkins has announced that he would rather we did not broadcast our whereabouts to the universe as he **"is worried that aliens will plunder our resources."**

A more realistic concern is that the Lord Himself will return and ask us what we have done with the resources He has given us.

1 May p.6 Greenhouses on the Red Planet

US President Barak Obama has signalled his intention to send humans to Mars by the mid 2030s.

"When it comes to gardens, Earth's red neighbour has way too much of a bad thing: ultraviolet radiation. With no ozone layer, Mars cannot screen the lethal amounts of UV emitted by the sun." This is further confirmation that the Lord formed the Earth to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18).

1 May p.14 Fetuses have their own immunity

Experts from Brussels have shown that human foetuses just 21 weeks old may be capable of fending off infections using their own immune cells. They examined cord blood from newborns infected with

cytomegalovirus (CMV can cause brain damage) as well as babies not infected. They found that the number of delta T-cells was higher in the infected babes and a greater number of their immune cells were activated. There were clear differences between the mothers' immune cells and the babies', **"suggesting that fetuses generate an independent immune response to CMV"**.

The Creator provides the unborn child with protection, while the abortionists do the opposite. 'Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I say to you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven' (Matt. 18:10).

8 May p.4 Matter still missing

"Previous claims that dark matter had been detected are being called into doubt following a new experiment's failure to spot any of the elusive particles."

8 May p.12 'Optical fibres' aid vision in our backward eyes

Light entering our eye is focussed by the lens on to the light-sensitive rods and cones in the retina at the back of the eye, from which electrical signals are sent along the optic nerve to the brain.

Darwin wrote that he could not imagine how such a complex arrangement would arise little by little through evolution. However, evolutionists note that in order for the light to reach the rods and cones, it has first to dodge around an array of cells and a bed of nerves that link up in the optic nerve to the brain. They claim that the retina is the wrong way round, a mistake caused by its gradual development. The nerves, they say, should be behind the retina, out of the path of light.

Creationists point out that the retina requires a blood supply, both for nutrients

and for cooling. The opaque blood vessels need to be behind the retina, but in contact with it.

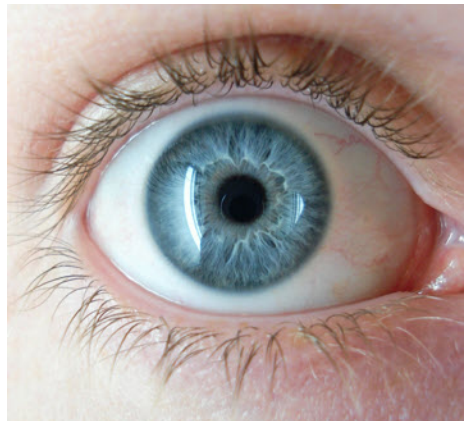
In 2007 we reported in these pages the discovery of cells in the retina that act as fibre optics, guiding the light past the nerves and focussing it on the rods and cones at the back of the retina.

Now the *NS* reports: **"It looks wrong, but the strange, 'backwards' structure of the vertebrate retina actually improves vision."**

"Certain cells act as optical fibres, and rather than being just a workaround to make up for the eye's peculiarities, they help filter and focus light, making images clearer and keeping colours sharp..."

"These Müller cells are funnel-shaped, with wide tops that cover the surface of the retina and a long slender body that guides light to the receptors below."

These guides only transmit the information-carrying light that comes directly from the pupil, filtering out 'noise' that has been reflected around within the eye. **"The cells also seem to help keep colours in focus."**



The human eye: amazingly well designed, yet evolutionists think they know better than God how it should be constructed! Image: 8thstar, Wikipedia, under GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2.

Just as light separates in a prism, the lenses in our eyes separate different colours... Müller cells' wide tops allow them to 'collect' any separated colours and refocus them onto the same cone cell, ensuring that all the colours from an image are in focus."

Before this discovery, the retina was "listed among evolution's biggest mistakes."

So what do evolutionists say now, confronted with evidence of such a complex design? Arch anti-creationist Kenneth Miller says this shows "the extent to which evolution has coped with the flawed layout." (However, there is no evidence that vertebrate retinas were ever without these cells.) The Editorial on p.3 opines "The anatomy of the retina is indeed good evidence that eyes were cobbled together bit by bit. Surely a creator would never have chosen to construct an eye in this way." Referring to the recently discovered Müller cells, the editor continues: "Of course, findings that coincide with the claims of creationists do not mean they have a point – although they may well quote this study."

He goes on to quote Kenneth Miller's baseless argument that these cells are a retrofit. The Lord who made the eye said through Isaiah "You hear indeed, but do not understand; and you see indeed, but do not perceive." (6:9. see also Mark 8:18)

15 May Modern humans' Neanderthal origins

"A long-awaited rough draft of the Neanderthal genome has revealed that our own DNA contains clear evidence that early humans interbred with Neanderthals." Bones from Portugal and Eastern Europe look like "human-Neanderthal hybrids". "Moreover, decorative arte-

facts characteristic of humans have cropped up at Neanderthal sites."

The Editorial on p.3 of this issue adds more comment. The Neanderthal genome, derived from the Max Planck Institute in Germany, "differs little from ours, encoding fewer than 100 changes that would affect the shape of proteins... but similar variation is found among humans today. Moreover, Neanderthals share with us a version of a gene linked to the evolution of speech, and recent archaeological evidence suggests that their minds were capable of the symbolic representations that underlie language and art. If that's not human, then what is?"

Dispense with the philosophical notion that man has evolved, together with his speech and culture, and we see Neanderthals as fully human living in ice-bound Europe, descended from Eve, the mother of us all, through Noah and Japheth. He was not a mindless brute.

15 May p.16 Earliest fossil bird held onto more than just its bones

"It boasts more than just beautiful impressions of long-gone feathers. One of the world's most famous fossils – of the earliest known bird, *Archaeopteryx* – also contains remnants of the feathers' soft tissue."

The 'Thermopolis specimen' was scanned by a powerful X-ray beam that excites atoms to emit rays at characteristic frequencies. "The green glow of the bones in this false-colour image shows that *Archaeopteryx*, like modern birds, concentrated zinc in its bones.

"Copper and zinc are key nutrients for living birds, and their presence in the fossil bones shows the evolutionary link with dinosaurs." No it doesn't! It merely shows that, along with all the other evidence such as the avian brain, these fossils

were true birds. Humans also have copper and zinc, but the evolutionary link from dinosaurs to ourselves is not too clear. Phosphorus shows up along the main shaft of the feather impressions, confirming that Archy was a bird.

!5 May p.35 Special Report – Denial

This eleven page special report is concerned with groups of people that deny the obvious authenticity of climate change, evolution theory, the Holocaust, the AIDS and HIV connection, tobacco and lung cancer, and so on. (As you see they have mixed truth and fiction in order to tar all of the unbelievers with the same brush.)

“What is the difference between a sceptic and a denier? When I call myself a sceptic, I mean that I take a scientific approach to the evaluation of claims. A climate sceptic, for example, examines specific claims one by one, carefully considers the evidence for each, and is willing to follow the facts wherever they lead. A climate denier has a position staked out in advance, and sorts through the data employing ‘confirmation bias’ – the tendency to look for and find confirmatory evidence for pre-existing beliefs and ignore or dismiss the rest.” In other words- I know what I believe – don’t confuse me with the facts!

For example- **“Either evolution and the big bang happened or they did not: both matters can, in principle, be solved with more data and better theory... Sceptics change their minds. Deniers just keep on denying.”** [Skip back to our report on the seemingly back-to-front retina. Kenneth Miller is a classic case of a denier.]

“The epithet ‘denier’ is increasingly used to bash anyone who dares to question orthodoxy... It is used to close down legitimate debate...

The truth will out. Denialists movements can be beaten. Patient rebuttal is a powerful weapon.”

Well, that’s all very reasonable and encouraging for us. In Lavoisier’s day, some chemists were deniers of the Phlogiston Theory. Last century, some anthropologists were deniers of Piltdown Man. Now, some astronomers are deniers of the Big Bang Theory. But to start with they were battling against perceived orthodoxy. Most of the old guard didn’t change their minds, they simply passed on.

22 May p.8 Big bang, part II; the big boil “Did a second furious expansion and a seething mass of bubbles follow the universe’s birth?”



An explosion does not create an increase in order. The information content of the universe required the input of an intelligent designer.
Image: J. Sullivan, <http://pdphoto.org/>

Following the opening question, the first 6 column inches are peppered with phrases such as: **could have, perhaps, may have, might mean, is thought to have** (3 times), and **“But exactly how this happened is far from clear”**. The article continues with further computer simulated speculations about quark-gluon plasma, leptons and anti-quarks. One can agree that **“Right now, the two new studies raise more questions than they answer.”**

Genesis 1:1 omits to ponder on whether the universe underwent a second violent bubbling inflation **“just 10^{-37} seconds or so after its birth”**.

On 13th March 1997, the *Guardian* newspaper said **“Scientists talk cheerfully and with immense confidence about the first few thousandths of a second of time, but secretly most people believe that they are making it up as they go along.”**

22 May p.19 Fat lips evolve at record speed

“Fish in a remote crater lake in Nicaragua are splitting into separate species at breakneck speed. It has taken the lake cichids just 100 generations and as many years to evolve an entirely new physical feature: very fat lips... They don’t eat the same diet, nor do they like to mate with each other – though lab experiments show they can still interbreed.”

This is the classic confusion of mistaking variation within a kind with assumed macroevolution. Darwin only referred in his book to varieties of such things as finches and tortoises. Such changes involve the selection of genes already present in the creatures’ genomes, whereas macroevolution, if it happened, would require the creation of new genes with their precise genetic information.

22 May p.48 Fuzzy boundary

This is a review by atheist *NS* journalist Amanda Gefer of the book *Nonsense on Stilts: how to tell science from bunk* by Massimo Pigliucci, £20-00.

Judge Jones declared in the Dover Trial that ID (Creation by an intelligent designer) is not science because it invokes a supernatural causation, while science must exclude God. Pigliucci is even-handed in admitting that evolutionary psychology, SETI and string theory are not *bona fide* science either. He also said that scientists do science a disservice when they promote scientism – the idea that science can answer every meaningful question we might ask about the world.



Statue of Faraday in London. A brilliant scientist, he saw no incompatibility between his science and his faith. Image: CSM.

The idea that science excludes God is an American notion based on their First Amendment. Several whole branches of science were, in fact, discovered by folk who readily ascribed origins to the God who made the world and everything in it. For instance, Faraday, who invented the science of electro-magnetism, was a six-day creationist. Ambrose Fleming, the inventor of the thermionic valve without which radio could not have followed (including the anti-creationist BBC) was CSM's first President.

And incidentally, ID uses the argument for design as popularised by William Paley. Biological systems are too complex to have evolved a bit at a time. That's simple logic.

29 May p3 Editorial with p.6 The meaning of artificial life

J Craig Venter and his Maryland team have created a synthetic cell. Venter explained **“We did not create life from scratch: we transformed existing life into new life. Nor did we design and build a new chromosome from scratch. Rather, using only digitalised information, we synthesised a modified version, a copy of the *Mycoplasma mycoides* genome [a bacterium] with 14 of its genes deleted and a ‘watermark written into another 5000-plus base pairs. The result is not an ‘artificial life form: it is a living, self-replicating cell that most microbiologists would find hard to distinguish from the progenitor cell, unless they sequenced its DNA.”**

“The team made the new genome out of DNA sequences that had initially been made by a machine, but bacteria and yeast cells were used to stitch it together and duplicate it. The cell into which the synthetic genome was then transplanted contained its own proteins, lipids and other molecules. Until [unless] the host

cell is itself built artificially from scratch it cannot be said that life has been created.”

This brilliant work by the brightest experts in the field took 15 years of trial and mostly error to achieve. They wanted to find the simplest set of genes that would still replicate. They have confirmed (but not admitted) that the simplest conceivable cell is too complex to have arrived by chance. It required an intelligent Creator.

Remember that before God made man from the dust of the ground, He first made the dust from nothing!

29 May p.26 A reputation in tatters

“The controversies swirling around the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the University of East Anglia’s Climatic Research Unit in the UK have damaged the reputations not just of the institutions involved but of climate scientists in general.”

The article likens the loss of climate scientists’ reputations to the scandals of the Catholic Church over child abuse and that over MPs expenses.

““Public opinion has moved towards the view that scientists often try to suppress alternative hypotheses and ideas and that scientists will withhold data and try to manipulate some aspects of peer review to prevent dissent.’ ... ‘the perceived misbehaviour of even a few scientists can diminish the credibility of science as a whole.’

A survey by the BBC shows public confidence in the idea of man-made global warming has dropped this year from 41 to 26 per cent.

“Climate science needs professional help to rebuild its reputation.” Or maybe it just needs better science. The same goes for evolutionary science.

5 June p.32 High Flyers

Here is a fact-filled article about the remarkable migrations of moths and butterflies. For instance, did you know that **“Migrating lepidoptera routinely reach altitudes of over a kilometre, so studying them in mid-flight is far from straightforward...in the dark – which is when moths prefer to fly.”?**

By using laser scanners, a British team have scanned the insects in flight from the ground observation posts, and learned information such as their altitude, speed and direction. The species is deduced by its size, shape and wing beat. By choosing a time when the wind direction helps them, they can reach speeds of 60mph.

The Monarch butterflies travel north from spring to summer. They live for only 2-5 weeks so must stop to breed, laying up to 300 eggs. The time from egg via caterpillar and chrysalis to butterfly takes about a month. Then the next generation continues the migration from Central America to Canada. From September to November, a single generation completes the journey back South, before hibernating for the winter in Mexico. These live for 7-8 months.



Monarch butterfly larva: pre-programmed with all the genes needed by the adult, including a navigation system and a set of instructions on where to go. Image: www.sxc.hu

Monarchs released into a cage in which the magnetic field has been artificially reversed fly in the opposite direction to their usual route.

“Butterflies are known to use a sun compass to determine their direction. Even when the sun itself is obscured, its position can be inferred from the polarisation of light from patches of clear sky. What’s more, polarised light remains visible for up to 2 hours after sunset, so...as moths take off at twilight they use polarised light to set their direction compass. During the night, a magnetic compass could take over...”

Knowing how they find their way using the magnetic field and polarised light solves that mystery, but how do the moths and butterflies know where to make for? They have never made the journey before, yet new generations take the same journey each year. The route must be hard-wired into their genetic make-up. Information does not come by chance.

Also the process by which a tiny egg hatches as a caterpillar, then melts down into a chrysalis and finally emerges as a butterfly to mate and lay eggs must also be part of the genetic make-up. The egg contains all the information for these processes. If the system evolved by chance, it must have done so as a complete egg-to-egg process to survive. This is statistically impossible. A Creator was essential.

5 June p.38 Deeper impact

“On the west coast of India, near the city of Mumbai [Bombay], lies a tortured landscape. Faults score the ground, earthquakes are rife, and boiling water oozes up from below forming countless hot springs.

“Further inland, stark mountains of volcanic basalt provide compelling evidence that this entire region – an area of some 500,000 square kilometres known as the Deccan traps [solidified basalt that forms step-like hills] underwent bouts of volcanic activity between 68 and 64 million years ago. We don’t know why. The Deccan traps lie far away from any tectonic plate boundaries...

“No volcanism on the scale implied by the Deccan traps occurs on Earth now.

“The lava in the Deccan traps is rich in iridium, an element rare in the Earth’s crust but which commonly occurs in meteorites.”

The volcanic flows are interlaced with sedimentary rocks containing dinosaur fossils. The traps here are not unique. Similar structures are found in the permafrost of northern Siberia, some 2 million square kilometres in area and up to 3 kilometres thick formed in a single event.

The explanation offered in this article is that meteors showering down from outer space threw up massive amounts of molten basalt from beneath the crust.

Biblical history tells us of a unique time when the windows of heaven were opened and all the fountains of the great deep were broken up (Genesis 7:11). This would have resulted in volcanism on a scale never again repeated, together with huge creatures caught in floods leading to fossilisation in widespread sedimentary layers. This happened in little over a year of catastrophe.

Uniformitarian geologists of the 18th and 19th centuries, thinking in terms of the slow processes we see today, interpreted this as having happened millions of years ago.

This Noahic judgment was a foretaste of the coming Judgment of the last day.

12 June p.16 Biblical bee-keepers picked best bees

“The Bible didn’t dub it ‘a land flowing with milk and honey’ for nothing. Not only are the oldest known beehives in the world in Israel, bee-keepers of the time selected the best bees for the job.

“The remains of bees were found in two of the hives [clay cylinders found at Tel Rehov], but instead of being the local subspecies of the western honeybee, we now know they hailed from what is now Turkey...Turkish bees produce up to eight times as much honey as Syrian bees, and are less aggressive.”

The Israelites probably inherited these hives as, under Joshua, they took over the land from the Canaanites.

19 June p.5 Creationism in Russia

“A senior cleric in the Russian Orthodox church last week called for creationism to be taught alongside evolution, echoing repeated calls from creationists in the US. Reuters reports Hilarion Alfayev saying during a lecture in Moscow on 9 June that he wants to end ‘the monopoly of Darwinism’ in schools.”



A statue of Lenin in arrogant pose in Vladivostok. But the Bible makes it clear that one day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess to God (Rom. 14: 11). Image: Vfp15, Wikipedia, under GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2

Following the fall of communism both Joan and David Rosevear urged this same request from the platform at an international conference at Russia's National Academy of Education in Moscow in 2000. (Our friend Dr Duane Gish of ICR was among several American participants, but we were the only English speakers.) While we were in his office, the NAE president told us that he had written papers from a creationist stance. Today there is increasing evidence that evolution is philosophy rather than science. One can expect that Darwin's theory will finally go the way of communism, perhaps just as suddenly.

Has Jupiter sent us down a false trail?

WMAP, Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe is thought to measure the microwave background echo of the proposed big bang that is said to have started the universe. The data supported the standard model of dark matter, dark energy and inflation – all necessary add-ons to fit theory to observation. To calibrate the data, astronomers used microwaves from Jupiter. But recalibrating the data using radio galaxies gives results that fit alternative theories that do not require the fudge factors of dark matter and dark energy.

Of course, there is a theory that the universe didn't create itself by a chance explosion of nothing, but that in the beginning God created it much as it is today, and that one day soon He will wrap it up and create new heavens and new earth where righteousness dwells (II Peter 3:13).

26 July p.17 Turbocharged evolution for corals living on the edge

A study of both physical and genetic changes in live and fossilised samples of a coral in the Caribbean shows that material on the edge of the coral colony showed more

changes than coral near the centre of the reef. This was interpreted as due to the fact that conditions on the fringes were more extreme, **“pushing them to evolve faster, into better-adapted variants.”**

However, they are looking at variations built into the genes of the coral that enable it to survive changing conditions in the sea temperature and salinity. The corals round the margins are merely variants. There is no new genetic material, simply selection of that naturally occurring in the central locations. Darwin built his whole hypothesis on the false idea that variations led to macro-evolution.

26 July p.46 Winning combinations

Richard Dawkins coined the term 'evolvability' to talk about the alleged ability of a species to evolve. **“Over the course of 500 million years, natural selection has fashioned wings for flight, fins for swimming, and legs for walking, and that's just among the vertebrates.”** Of course, if a terrestrial creature started to evolve a wing or two, natural selection would eliminate such useless novelty well before it became functional.

The article discusses whether the front limbs of a mammal could evolve into bat's wings while the rear limbs remained unchanged. Assuming that they could the article concludes: **“Ultimately, this enabled early humans to evolve longer legs adapted to walking and running while leaving arm length relatively unchanged. By the same logic [?] a shortening of the forearm, which would have facilitated tool use, was not constrained by corresponding changes on the lower leg that might have reduced their walking power.”** Phrases such as **“computer simulation”** and **“lucky accident”** follow.

In other words, scientists know that evolution from single celled organisms into eve-

rything else has happened, but we need to work out how it all happened over megatime. Science this isn't!

More adventures with CSM

David and I were walking down the hill looking over Jerusalem. We had just visited Bethany and clambered down to explore Lazarus' tomb (surely unlikely it really was that?) and looked where the Lord had said on Palm Sunday that the stones themselves would cry out if the people held their peace (Luke 19). At the time we were considering the possibility of running a Holy Land tour for CSM members.

From praising stones in Jerusalem to buying fossils from an importer in Scunthorpe: We had overfilled the caravan and were just starting to make our way back to Portsmouth when my rear view mirror showed the caravan gliding away from the car into the wayside hedge. An alarming sight! Two breakdown vehicles responded to our SOS, as did our fossil importer friend. He kindly removed the fossils to send them by carrier to the Genesis Expo, and with minor roadside repairs to the front of the van we were able to continue home.

On one occasion I had a creationist book-stall at Kensington Temple in Notting Hill where David was speaking. Near the books I was playing a tape of birdsong which drew a number of interested parties enquiring about the birds apparently nesting in the church foyer! They went on to buy the books.

Stones, fossils, birdsong and ... grass: At a public debate at the University of Caledonia in 1997 our opponent, a Glasgow professor of environmental and evolutionary biology, said he had proof of evolution.

Everyone was agog to hear what he was talking about. Reluctantly he cited a Latin species name, and when further pressed said it was a grass that had responded to a change in its environment. The lecture hall full of students and folk from local churches resounded with mirth and some jeers. The unfortunate professor completely lost his cool and was quite disparaging about his unscientific audience. The creationist numbers were increased on the spot!

We remembered the elderly chap at L.A. where David was lecturing, who could recall our former secretary on his world tour, decades earlier, speaking at that selfsame church. NASA has a group there studying the problems with the chance origin of life. One of these scientists told us afterwards that he had agreed with everything David had said on the subject.

We went on to visit the Grand Canyon and the Meteor Crater, the former gouged out catastrophically by flowing water, the latter a vast bowl dug out by quite a small piece of stone from space.

So many memories and adventures! We always paid for ourselves on these trips. CSM needed all the funds the Lord's people sent in, especially when we found the National Provincial Bank on The Hard in Portsmouth waiting to be bought and transformed into the Genesis Expo. A team of volunteers put things together and the Lord persuaded members to donate a third of a million pounds without any fundraising. A decade later and a splendid mezzanine floor is now in place and paid for, and planning permission has been granted to build on the freehold land at the rear. Please continue to pray for this unique work.

JR

Subfossil tree

The ancient city of Padova, Italy, is well known for its cultural and artistic achievements. Less well known is the fact that it also has the oldest botanical garden in Europe. During a recent visit to the *Orto Botanico*, I saw on display amid the many spectacular plants a seemingly dull and uninteresting oak tree trunk. However, closer inspection of the explanatory notice (see accompanying image, with notice inset) showed this impression to be quite wrong.

The notice indicates that the tree trunk is a subfossil - i.e., it was already well on its way to becoming a fossil when it was excavated in 1979. The tree is thought to date from 700AD. If it could become a subfossil in only around 1300 years, what does this imply about the many millions of years that fossil-bearing strata supposedly represent? If anything, surely this is evidence that fossilisation occurs quickly if there are sufficient heat and pressure from the strata overlying the buried organism.

Hence the presumed millions of years don't really exist; they are just a figment of the uniformitarianist's presuppositions.

Regular readers will recall that in February 2005, researchers in the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory reported that they had been able to petrify wood in just a few days in an optimal environment. **RC**

Book delay

'God, the Truth, the Whole Truth and nothing but the Proof' by Vij Soderia.

We much regret that CSM members who ordered copies of this book have experienced a delay in receiving them. Unbeknown to us, it transpires that at the time the adverts were sent out, the book had not been quite completed. It is currently undergoing final proof-reading. We can assure members that as soon as we receive copies from the publishers, we will despatch orders. The author conveys his apologies for the inconvenience incurred.

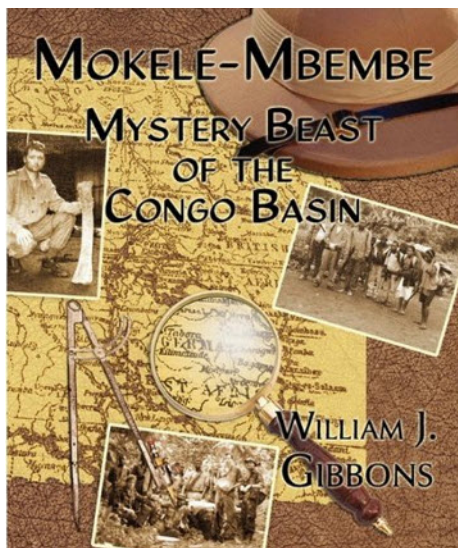


Book review

Gibbons, William J. *Mokele-Mbembe, Mystery Beast of the Congo Basin*. 2010. Coachwhip Publications. Pennsylvania. ISBN 1-61646-010-5. 268pp. (not stocked by CSM).

The subject of living dinosaurs has always been dear to the creationist heart, yet it is one which has been too-rarely served by modern authors. Here, however, is a rich remedy. The author, Dr Bill Gibbons, has spent almost thirty years now taking expeditions into the very heart of the Congo Basin, a truly forbidding part of the world (no armchair explorer he). The aim of the expeditions has been to gather information from local tribes people about an animal which they have consistently reported over many years, and which bears every resemblance to a type of dinosaur known to us as a sauropod. There are, in fact, several other types of animal which the locals describe, and they are all large reptilian creatures whose features are readily recognisable from the fossil record. And what is more, they are alive, and the locals fear them greatly. Ultimately, of course, it is hoped, after several near misses, to film a live specimen or two, or maybe bring back some fresh remains.

The book opens on page 8 with a photo of the front page of the *New York Herald*. The headline reads, 'Is A Brontosaurus Roaming Africa's Wilds?' The article appeared in the February 13th 1910 edition of the paper, and it sets the tone for all that follows in the book. (The poor old Brontosaurus underwent something of a name-change in recent decades when it was found that the wrong head had been placed on the wrong neck, so for 'Brontosaurus'



read Sauropod). Evidently, this creature, known to us under its native name of *Mokele Mbembe*, has been the subject of scrutiny for at least the past 100 years, and the first four chapters of Gibbons' book are devoted to a detailed and well illustrated history of early expeditions to find the monster.

From chapter 5 there appears the author's account of his own expeditions, and very exciting reading it is too. The whole is well illustrated with photos as well as paintings by the renowned creationist artist Bill Rebsamen, and the book offers not just a detailed and informative account of the creature which is its subject, but the cogent and powerful hope that soon Bill Gibbons' efforts will bear fruit in the shape of video and audio evidences, if not some physical remains. It is hoped that one of his colleagues will visit the area again this year, but a major expedition is definitely planned for 2011, and we shall follow this expedition with great and prayerful interest.

The subject of this book, living dinosaurs, is of immense importance to the creation/evolution controversy. Should just the physical remains of one of these creatures be brought home, it would present an unanswerable challenge to those who, in their thousands, have spent their lives convincing an unwary public that dinosaurs died out millions and millions of years ago. It would seriously challenge the wholly unproven and ludicrous - yet untiringly persistent - claim that mankind 'evolved' from some kind of primitive ape. In short, it would upend the entire and godless Darwinian philosophy upon which the western world is now built. It is our fervent prayer that many more such expeditions are to come, and that they will at last bear fruit.

NB: Hearing of Bill's work in this field, The History Channel filmed one of his expeditions, issued under the title, *Monster-Quest: The Last Dinosaur*, and it is riveting viewing. You can watch it in five parts on YouTube,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoheGht40NI> **Bill Cooper**

Letters

A CSM member writes:

"I do find 'Creation' and the pamphlets some of the most useful material I receive. May the Lord help you to keep up the good work." AJB 7 April 2010.

Quotations

"The origin of life appears to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to be satisfied to get it going."

Francis Crick, discoverer of the structure of DNA.

"The simplest bacterium is so complicated that it is almost impossible to imagine how it happened."

Harold Klein, chairman of the U. S. National Academy of Sciences committee that reviewed origin-of-life research.

If you would like a CSM speaker for your church, school, university, town hall or whatever, please telephone or email us as in the panel below, giving choices of dates if possible. A contribution towards expenses would be appreciated. We would be able to offer a creationist bookstall.

Creation Science Movement

PO Box 888, Portsmouth PO6 2YD, UK

Founded 1932, Registered Charity 801745

www.csm.org.uk; info@csm.org.uk; 02392 293988